

8. (New) The N-alkoxyalkyl-N,N-dialkylamine derivative or its salt according to

Claim 7, wherein D is thiophene.

REMARKS

New Claims 7 and 8 have been added to preferred embodiments and are based on Claims 1-3 and 6, as originally filed. No new matter has been added in the new claims.

The Examiner states that the application contains inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. However, the Examiner has not followed the procedure set out in MPEP §1893.03(d) in which is stated that, when making a lack of unity of invention requirement, the Examiner must (1) list the different groups of claims and (2) explain why each group lacks unity with each other group (i.e., why there is no single general inventive concept), specifically describing the unique special technical feature in each group. It is Applicants' position that Groups I-VI are linked to form a single general inventive concept by the fact that each group contains N-alkoxyalkyl-N,N-dialkylamine moiety within the compound and that all the compounds in the groups are used as agents for treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. Thus, the special technical feature and the use of the compounds with the special technical feature as agents for treatment of neurodegenerative diseases defines what the contribution of the claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

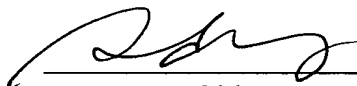
The Examiner's argument that the compounds contain a Ph-CH₂-C-O-C-N-moiety, which was known in the art prior to the filing of the instant invention, is misplaced, since the claims cover a specific group of compounds containing an N-alkoxyalkyl-N,N-dialkylamine as part of each individual compound, which compounds have not been shown by the Examiner to have been known by any citation of prior art.

Accordingly, for the reasons presented above Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary to sustain the restriction/election requirement.

Withdrawal of the Election/Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618

Roland E. Martin
Registration No. 48,082



22850

TEL: (703) 413-3000

FAX: (703) 413-2220

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DOCKET NO.: 216367US0PCT
SERIAL NO.: 09/926,739

AMENDMENT AND
RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 7 and 8 (New).